



EPA Region 6



QUARTERLY REPORT

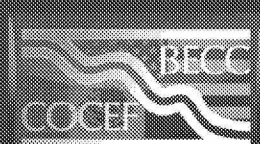
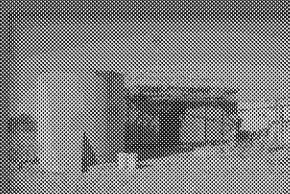
January - March 2017



US-MEXICO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
Implementation of Border 2020 Program
EPA-Region 6
X4-00F92501



Submitted by:
Javier Torres, Technical Assistance Manager



Comisión de Cooperación Ecológica Fronteriza
Border Environment Cooperation Commission

QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT

US-MEXICO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT Implementation of Border 2020 Program EPA-Region 6

GRANT: X4-00F92501

Grant Period: Sep. 17, 2004 – Aug. 31, 2017

REPORTING PERIOD:

January – March 2017

TO:

Monica Wilson

U.S. EPA, Region 6 (6PD)

Environmental Protection Specialist

FROM:

Javier Torres

Border Environment Cooperation Commission

Technical Assistance Manager

April 30, 2017, Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, México

US Mexico Border 2020 Environmental Program - Quarterly Grant Status Report

Grant Title:

US – Mexico Border Cooperative Agreement
Implementation of EPA Region-6 Border 2020 Program

Grant Agreement No.

X4-00F92501

Contact:

Primary Contact Name: **Javier Torres**
Organization: Border Environment Cooperation Commission
Telephone & Fax: 01-656-688-4600 Email: jtorres@cocef.org

Reporting Period (please check appropriate period):

- ☐ October 1 – December 31, 2014, Reporting period: report due on January 30, 2015
- ☐ January 1 – March 31, 2015, Reporting period: report due on April 30, 2015
- ☐ April 1 – June 30, 2015, Reporting period: report due on July 30, 2015
- ☐ July 1 – September 30, 2014, Reporting period: report due on October 30, 2015
- ☐ October 1 – December 31, 2015, Reporting period: report due on January 30, 2016
- ☐ January 1 – March 31, 2016, Reporting period: report due on April 30, 2016
- ☐ April 1 – June 30, 2016, Reporting period: report due on July 30, 2016
- ☐ July 1 – September 30, 2016, Reporting period: report due on October 30, 2016
- ☐ October 1 – December 31, 2016, Reporting period: report due on January 30, 2017
- ☒ January 1 – March 31, 2017, Reporting period: report due on April 30, 2017
- ☐ April 1 – June 30, 2017, Reporting period: report due on July 30, 2017
- ☐ July 1 – August 30, 2017, Reporting period: report due on September 30, 2017

Check here if this is the final reporting period under your grant

Please explain any current or expected growth of your project. If there is growth potential, have you consulted with other partners for further or future leveraging of funds, for continuing the project after funding from the Environmental Protection Agency ends?

None to report.

Indicate the goal(s) and objective(s) of the Border 2020 Framework Document that this grant is addressing (<http://www.epa.gov/border2020>)

GOAL 1. - Reduce Air Pollution

Objective 1. - By 2020, in accordance with the NAFTA, promote the reduction of the number of vehicles operating in the border region that do not comply with the respective vehicle emissions' standards and reduce vehicle emissions at ports-of-entry through anti-idling and other feasible reduction measures.

- **Project type 1:** Support the development of vehicle emissions programs in collaboration with governmental entities in order to improve compliance, enhance detection and correction of non-compliance vehicles. In addition, capacity building activities to reduce air pollution, in the border cities or at the Ports of Entry (POE), which may include the enforcement of environmental compliance at the time of used vehicle importation.

Objective 2.- By 2020, reduce pollutant emissions in order to approach attainment of respective national ambient air quality standards (i.e. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) or Norms as they are referred in Mexico) in the El Paso, Texas–Dona Ana County, New Mexico and at State of Chihuahua's border cities' air sheds.

- **Project type 1:** Establish joint collaboration strategies with governmental and/or non-governmental regulatory and planning agencies to identify and implement air pollutant reduction strategies to achieve better air quality in the Paso del Norte region (PdN). Projects should promote, expand, and be consistent with the strategies identified in PROAIRES (Mexico's air shed management plan) or U.S. Clean Air Act (USCAA) State Implementation Plans (SIPs.)

Objective 3. – By 2018, maintain effective Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network (AAQMN) and provide real-time access to air quality data produced at New Mexico/Texas /Mexico air sheds.

- **Project Type 1:** Initiatives for this objective should aim to ensure the long term sustainability and data quality for the El Paso, Texas – Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua air quality monitoring network.

GOAL 2: Water – Improve Access to Clean and Safe Water

- **Project type 1:** Efforts under this goal should be targeted to capacity building proposals that incorporate replication strategies, on proper maintenance and/or decommissioning of septic tanks, water conservation and pollution prevention in order to better understand, plan and maintain cleanup sources of drinking water on future groundwater supplies in New Mexico-Texas-Chihuahua border, specifically in Dona Ana County, New Mexico (particularly those communities along the corridor between El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico) and Luna County, New Mexico and El Paso County, Texas.

Objective 2. - Help drinking water and wastewater service providers in the border region to implement sustainable infrastructure practices to reduce operating costs, improve energy efficiency, use water efficiently and adapt to climate change.

- **Project type 1:** Conduct energy and/or water audits on small water drinking systems that serve communities with less than a population of 5,000 users, to identify recommendations on how to improve efficiency and provide cost-savings measures for that system.
- **Project type 2:** Outreach and education to improve water quality within the Gulf Task Force Region.

Objective 3. - Work bi-nationally to identify and reduce surface water contamination in Trans - boundary water bodies and watersheds.

Objective 3a. - Develop a binational watershed protection plan in the Lower Rio Grande below Falcon International Dam. Initial activities could include partnership building, watershed characterization, definition of goals/identification of solutions, determination of waste load, load allocations for each country, and development of an implementation plan.

- **Project type 1:** Continue to support activities that meet objective 3a– The proposals should address any water quality sampling and collection, data analysis, modeling and surveys still required by the bi-national workgroup on this project. In addition, the work should also support any additional training or workshops needed, among others, by the Amistad and Falcon Task Force, as well by the Texas-Coahuila-Nuevo Leon –Tamaulipas, Regional Work Group.

GOAL 3: Promote Materials Management & Waste Management, & Clean Sites

Objective 1. - By 2020, increase local and state-level institutional knowledge and experience in the area of sustainable material management practices.

- **Project type 1:** Proposals should be aimed to build capacity and establish strategies to improve infrastructure to minimize waste, maximize collections systems, support secondary materials markets, and reduce overall disposal in landfills and open dumps.

Objective 2. - Identify priority waste streams and by 2020 develop sustainable material management practices that strengthen their respective market value.

- **Project type 1:** Identify priority waste streams in the municipalities from Four States region and develop sustainable waste management programs for those municipalities to include strengthening the market value of the waste.
- **Project type 2:** Develop sustainable management practices to address used electronics, household hazardous waste, and tires in the Region which will include an educational component to promote recycling and solid waste practices.

GOAL 4: Enhance Joint Preparedness for Environmental Response

Objective 2. - By 2020, at least eight (8) of the sister city joint contingency plans will be supplemented with preparedness and prevention related activities such as certified training, risk analysis, and/or capacity building

- **Project type 1:** Conduct bi-national training to both U.S. and Mexican local emergency responders, on incidents involving Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or Explosive (CBRNE), and/or all hazards response skills enabling them to respond safely and effectively to these types of incidences.
- **Project type 2:** Conduct bi-national training to U.S. and Mexican local emergency responders, specifically on HAZMAT incidences only.
- **Project type 3:** Conduct bi-national: 1) tabletop drill with functional drill/exercise or 2) Full Scale Drill/Exercises to test local sister city plans. In order to meet the definition of bi-national, the

drills/exercises should go beyond a simple notification to the local sister-city pair and demonstrate actual coordination of resources (expertise, equipment, personnel, etc.) between the sister-cities.

- **Project type 4:** Develop a hazardous materials risk analysis.

GOAL 5. – Enhance Compliance Assurance and Environmental Stewardship

Objective 4. - By 2020, implement at least five (5) binational workshops targeted to environmental enforcement professionals, including ports-of-entry customs professionals (i.e. Department of Homeland Security-Customs and Border Protection), to promote the exchange of information and improve understanding of each Country's respective compliance and enforcement programs and tools, including field studies.

- **Project type 1:** Proposals should consider events for information exchange to improve understanding each Country's respective compliance and enforcement programs and tools including field inspections and case development practices.

Fundamental Strategies

Promoting Environmental Health

- **Project type 1:** Projects presented under this fundamental strategy should increase engagement and participation by the community and stakeholders to better manage the environment and public health issues along the border.

Building Capacity towards Climate Change Resiliency

- **Project type 1:** The Border 2020 climate change efforts should focus on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and on actions to help border communities become more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Summary of approved Work Plan activities performed during the reporting quarter.

Projects in progress during reporting period:

Project ID	Goal	Objective	Project Name	Status
20298	3	1	Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Agricultural Soils Project in the Valle de Juarez, Chihuahua	Project Status: Activities for the last quarter include attending the meetings of District Rural Development Councils convened by SAGARPA to continue the dissemination of the Commission for the Use of Biosolids activities and the preparation of material for courses and workshops to producers and livestock technicians in the Valle de Juarez. A workshop for government officials was held with the participation of 21 representatives and an interview and publications made by Dr. Flores in Norte appeared in a local newspaper and local media.

20303	FS	NA	Healthy and Resilient Housing in west Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua	Eco-technologies are being applied to 25 selected homes. Additionally, a catalog with 31 eco-technologies that can be applied to local low income houses has been finished
20302	FS	NA	Green Infrastructure in Public Space on Valle del Sol Avenue, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua	The demonstration site is finished and operating. Monitoring of the rain water and sediments captured is underway. A training for local park employees and neighbors of the project site to explain the function and maintenance needs has been scheduled for the end of April.
20295	3	1	Interagency coordination for the management of electronic and electrical waste in Ciudad Acuña and Piedras Negras, Coahuila	The project concluded in March 2017. The results of the project are: Collection of 56 tons of electronic waste (25 tons were targeted), which included 3 campaigns of massive collection of e-waste in several municipalities. 38 public and private organizations were trained and supported the campaign. A permanent collection of electronic waste was opened in Ciudad Acuña.
20297	2	2	Decision Making Tool (DMT ^g) for Determining LID Stormwater Detention, Brownsville, Texas	Project sponsor has performed an AutoCad drawing for a prototype 20 acre commercial development case study to use it as a demonstration tool in the workshops. Project sponsor has four workshops venues planned for continuing education credits for storm water professionals in Brownsville, San Benito, Weslaco and Mission. Texas A&M Kingsville is proposing to revise the budget to include a subcontract for UTRGV to complete a portion of the remaining work in 2017.

Summary of the Work Plan performance outputs/outcomes achieved during the reporting quarter.

None to report.

Are you on track with your timeline? Yes ☒ No ☐

A description of problems encountered during the reporting quarter that may affect the project schedule and a discussion of meeting the performance outputs/outcomes.

None

Resolutions to Problems Previously Reported.

None to report.

Activities Anticipated/Planned for Next Three Months and Budgeted Costs.

None to report.

Discuss what key personnel did on the project.

Briselda Duarte coordinated project development activities with EPA and sponsors. Marielena Constandse prepared this report and provided Contract Administration. Javier Torres provided Grant Administration coordination with EPA. Joaquin Marruffo supervised the execution of the project activities.

Discuss any changes in key personnel.

None to report.

Please name any significant partner organizations that you (as the lead organization) have for this project, who are taking responsibility for substantial portions of implementation.

None to report.

BUDGET SUMMARY - Include information on the expenditure of grant agreement funds during the quarter and cumulatively by task in the provided budget tables. The tasks should correspond to the tasks outlined in your approved grant agreement work plan and the tables may be expanded accordingly. In addition, include in your narrative an estimate of funds needed to complete the work required in the grant agreement compared to the funds remaining in the grant agreement. *Note: This section does not substitute for the annual financial status report (SF-269) required by the grant agreement.*

TABLE 1

Summary of Quarterly Expenses by Category (Report Period January 1 to March 31, 2017)

Work Plan Tasks	Approved Work Plan Budget	Previously Expended	Expenses this Quarter	Total Cumulative Expenses
Task A- Projects	\$ 278,255.00	\$139,513	\$10,843	\$150,356
Task B- Emergency Response	\$ 26,290.00	\$25,055	\$0	\$25,055
Indirect Cost	\$30,455.00	\$16,457	\$1,084	\$17,541
TOTAL Cumulative Expenses	\$335,000.00	\$181,025	\$11,927	\$192,953

TABLE 2

Budget Categories (programmatic costs only)	Task A Projects	Task B Emergency Response	TOTAL Quarterly Expenses
Personnel	-	-	-
Fringe Benefits	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-
Equipment	-	-	-
Other (specify)	\$10,843.13	-	\$10,843.13
TOTAL Direct Charges	\$10,843.13	-	\$10,843.13
Indirect Costs	\$1,084.31	-	\$1,084.31
TOTAL Cumulative Expenses	\$11,927.44	-	\$11,927.44

¹EPA defines equipment as items that cost \$5,000 or more with a useful life of more than one year. Items costing less than \$5,000 are considered supplies.

²Applicants must comply with the procurement procedures contained in 40 CFR 31.36, or for non-profits, with 40 CFR30.40.

What is the geographic scope of your project implementation? *(Include whether it is within the Tri-State and/or Four-State Region of Border 2020, whether implementation takes place in both the U.S. and Mexico, and any more specific implementation.)*

The geographic scope of this award covers the Tri-State Region, which includes the states of New Mexico, Chihuahua and the West Texas region; and the Four-State Region which includes the rest of Texas, Coahuila, Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon.

I certify that this report is true and correct, project is on schedule except as noted, and funds are being utilized as planned and agreed to in the award document.

Signature of Project Official:



Printed Name:

Javier Torres

Title:

Technical Assistance Manager

Date: April 30, 2017

Within 30 days following the end of each quarter, please submit this report to your EPA Project Officer.

ATTACHMENT “A”

THREE STATE (TX-CHIH-NM) BORDER 2020 - 2015 PROJECTS									
No.	Project ID	Goal/ Fund. Strategy	Objective	Project Name	Project Implementer	BECC Contract Officer & Project Manager	Amount Approved	STATUS	
					Contact Information		Amount Disbursed		
1	20298	3	1	Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Agricultural Soils project in the Valle de Juarez, Chihuahua	Universidad Autónoma de Cd. Juárez	Jorge Hernandez (PM)	\$ 48,510.00	Project Status: Activities for the last quarter include attending the meetings of District Rural Development Councils convened by SAGARPA to continue the dissemination of the Commission for the Use of Biosolids activities and the preparation of material for courses and workshops to producers and livestock technicians in the Valle de Juarez. A workshop for government officials was held with the participation of 21 representatives and an interview and publications made by Dr. Flores in Norte appeared in a local newspaper and local media.	
							\$ 9,451.25		
2	20303	FS	N/A	Healthy and Resilient Housing in west Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua	Federación Mexicana de Asociaciones Privadas de Salud y Desarrollo Comunitario, A.C.	Armando Herrerias (PM)	\$ 50,000.00	Project Status: Eco-technologies are being applied to 25 selected homes. Additionally, a catalog with 31 eco-technologies that can be applied to local low income houses has been finished	
							\$ 17,804.00		
3	20302	FS	N/A	Green Infrastructure in Public Space on Valle del Sol Avenue, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua	Instituto Tecnológico de Ciudad Juárez	Armando Herrerias (PM)	\$ 43,204.00	Project Status: The demonstration site is finished and operating. Monitoring of the rain water and sediments captured is underway. A training for local park employees and neighbors of the project site to explain the function and maintenance needs has been scheduled for the end of April.	
							\$ 29,239.30		
							Amount Approved	\$ 141,714.00	
							Amount Disbursed	\$ 56,494.55	

FOUR STATE (TX-COAH-NL-TAMPS) BORDER 2020 - 2015 PROJECTS

No.	Project ID	Goal/ Fund. Strategy	Objective	Project Name	Project Implementer	BECC Contract Officer & Project Manager	Amount Approved	STATUS
					Contact Information		Amount Disbursed	
1	20270	4	2	Hazardous Materials First Responders Binational Training in McAllen, Mission, Pharr, TX and Reynosa, Tamaulipas	City of McAllen Juan Gloria (956)681-2540 jgloria@mcallen.net	Marielena Constandse (CO) / Briseida Duarte (PM)	\$ 25,055.00	Project Status: Project concluded on February. Some of the significant project contributions are: • Increase hazmat response skills and capabilities to first responders in McAllen, Mission and Pharr Fire Departments and first responders from northern Mexico. • Equipment will also be used in future binational trainings.
							\$ 25,055.00	
2	20285	3	1	Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Project in Rio Bravo and Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas	Secretaria de Medio Ambiente	Jorge Hernandez (PM)	\$ 20,866.00	Project Status: The two municipal programs have been completed, and in August 10 and 24 they were presented for approval by the respective city councils. Some of the significant project contributions are: • The generation and waste composition studies allow both communities to know the type and amount of waste generated per inhabitant and could be marketed. The studies also calculate the areas required for the final disposal site according to their generation. • Both programs have been completed, and presented for approval by the respective city councils.
							\$ 19,871.16	
3	20295	3	1	Interagency coordination for the management of electronic and electrical waste in Ciudad Acuña and Piedras Negras, Coahuila	Secretaria de Medio Ambiente del Estado de Coahuila de Zaragoza	Jorge Hernandez (PM)	\$ 16,898.67	Project Status: The project concluded in March 2017. The results of the project are: Collection of 56 tons of electronic waste (25 tons were targeted), which included 3 campaigns of massive collection of e-waste in several municipalities. 38 public and private organizations were trained and supported the campaign. A permanent collection of electronic waste was opened in Ciudad Acuña.
							\$ 16,898.67	

4	20287	4	2	Binational Tabletop and Functional Exercises between Harlingen, TX and Matamoros, Tamaulipas.	City of Harlingen Fire Department	Briselda Duarte (PM)	\$ 44,682.30	<p>Project status: The project concluded in August. Some of the significant project contributions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training of 19 officers and students from Harlingen (2), Mission (2), Brownsville (1) and Matamoros (14). - Harlingen and Matamoros have established the ability to implement standardized response and real time communication in the event of Hazardous Materials incidents. - A foundation for enhanced emergency response and cooperative incident management has been created.
							\$ 44,682.30	
5	20297	2	2	Decision Making Tool (DMT ^G) for Determining LID Stormwater Detention in Brownsville, Texas	Texas A&M University-Kingsville	Jorge Hernandez (PM)	\$ 38,885.00	<p>Project Status: Project sponsor has performed an AutoCad drawing for a prototype 20 acre commercial development case study to use it as a demonstration tool in the workshops. Project sponsor has four workshops venues planned for continuing education credits for storm water professionals in Brownsville, San Benito, Weslaco and Mission. Texas A&M Kingsville is proposing to revise the budget to include a subcontract for UTRGV to complete a portion of the remaining work in 2017.</p>
							\$ 12,044.74	

Updated March 31, 2017

Amount Approved	\$ 146,386.97
Amount Disbursed	\$ 118,651.87

Total Approved	\$ 288,100.97
Total Disbursed	\$ 175,046.42